

**In the claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An alert device for detecting the presence of fecal matter comprising:

a pad ~~port member~~ having an aperture ~~with the aperture aligned with the stoma;~~

an alarm attached to said ~~port member~~ pad;

a first and second conductor extending from said aperture ~~at said aperture in electrical contact with said alarm;~~

a ~~plug defining an outer surface and a lumen, said tube having a second~~ third and forth conductor on said plug thereon, said plug removably secured to said pad ~~port~~ at said aperture ~~and with said first and second conductors being in electrical contact; and~~

~~a third conductor disposed within said lumen and being in electrical contact with said second conductor.~~

2. (Original) The alert device of claim 1 wherein said alarm emits an audible alarm.

3. (Original) The alert device of claim 1 wherein said alarm emits a visible alarm.

4. (Original) The alert device of claim 1 wherein said alarm emits a tactile alarm.

5. (Original) The alert device of claim 1 wherein said alarm transmits a signal to a remote location.

6. (Currently Amended) The alert device of claim 1 wherein said plug is secured in said aperture by mating engagement means ~~comprises~~ threads.

7. (Currently Amended) The alert device of claim 1 wherein said pad ~~port~~ is a flexible, elastomeric material.

8. (Original) The alert device of claim 1 further comprising an inflatable cuff encircling said plug.

9. (Currently Amended) The alert device of claim 1 wherein said ~~second and third~~ and fourth conductors ~~are~~ each comprise a pair of spaced-apart conductive rings.

10. (Original) The alert device of claim 1 further including an absorbent sleeve disposed about said tube.

11. (Original) The alert device of claim 1 wherein said plug includes a filter.

12. (Currently Amended) The alert device of claim 1 further comprising ~~wherein said port is attachable to the body by an adhesive ring attached to one side of the pad.~~

13-20 Cancelled

21. (New) The alert device of claim 9, wherein the third and fourth conductors each comprise

a lower ring, an upper ring and an upwardly extending section extending between the upper and lower rings.

22. (New) The alert device of claim 21, wherein the plug comprises a lumen having an outer surface and an inner surface, the upper ring extending about the outer surface and the lower ring extending about the inner surface.

23. (New) The alert device of claim 21, wherein the first and second conductor each comprise a first section extending from the circuit board to the aperture and a ring extending around the aperture.